

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cable, comprising at least one colored filling material disposed within a transparent or translucent buffer tube.
2. A cable, comprising a plurality of buffer tubes, wherein each buffer tube of said plurality contains a colored filling material.
3. The cable of claim 2, wherein the colored filling material within the buffer tubes of said plurality is color-coded.
4. The cable of claim 2, wherein the buffer tubes of said plurality are transparent or translucent.
5. The cable of claim 4, further comprising color-coded fibers.
6. The cable of claim 3, wherein the buffer tubes of said plurality are color-coded.
7. The cable of claim 6, further comprising:
non-color-coded filling material; and
transparent or translucent buffer tubes;
wherein said non-color-coded filling material is disposed within said color-coded buffer tubes, and said color-coded filling material is disposed within said transparent or translucent buffer tubes.
8. The cable of claim 7, wherein said cable complies with EIA/TIA-598.
9. The cable of claim 8, further comprising up to 288 optical fibers, wherein each optical fiber is individually identifiable.

10. A cable, comprising:
a plurality of transparent or translucent buffer tubes;
a plurality of color-coded optical fibers within each buffer tube of said plurality;
and
color-coded filling material disposed within each buffer tube of said plurality;
wherein each buffer tube contains a different color of filling material.

11. A system for identifying buffer tubes, comprising:
a plurality of buffer tubes; and
color-coded filling material;
wherein said color-coded filling material is disposed within each buffer tube of
said plurality.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the buffer tubes of said plurality are
transparent or translucent.

13. The system of claim 12, further comprising at least one ring, band marking,
stripe or identification thread/tape for at least one transparent or translucent buffer tube
of said plurality.

14. The system of claim 11, further comprising a plurality of color-coded
buffer tubes.

15. The system of claim 11, further comprising a combination of color-coded
buffer tubes and transparent or translucent buffer tubes.

16. The system of claim 15, further comprising:
non-color-coded filling material;
wherein said color-coded filling material is disposed within said transparent or
translucent buffer tubes, and said non-color-coded filling material is disposed within
said color-coded buffer tubes.

17. A system for identifying optical fibers, comprising:
a plurality of transparent or translucent buffer tubes;
color-coded optical fibers; and
color-coded filling material disposed within at least one of said buffer tubes.
18. The system of claim 17, further comprising a
plurality of color-coded buffer tubes; and
non-color-coded filling material disposed within said color-coded buffer tubes.
19. A method for constructing a fiber optic cable, comprising:
mixing a colorant into a filler material; and
injecting said filler material into a buffer tube.
20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
extruding a buffer tube around at least one optical fiber.
21. A method for identifying or managing optical fibers in a cable, comprising:
color-coding optical fibers;
color-coding filling material; and
including said filling material in at least one transparent or translucent buffer tubes.
22. The method of claim 21, further comprising color-coding buffer tubes.
23. A cable, comprising:
a plurality of transparent or translucent buffer tubes; and
means for identifying any one buffer tube of said plurality.
24. The cable of claim 23, wherein said means for identifying comprises color-coded buffer tube filler material disposed within at least two of said buffer tubes.

25. The cable of claim 24, wherein said means for identifying further comprises color-coded buffer tubes.

26. The cable of claim 24, wherein said means for identifying further comprises at least one ring or band marking around at least one of said buffer tubes.

27. A cable, comprising:
a plurality of buffer tubes;
optical fibers disposed within said plurality of buffer tubes; and
means for identifying optical fibers in a cable without coloring said at least one buffer tube.

28. The cable of claim 27, wherein said means for identifying comprises:
color-coded fibers; and
color-coded filler material.

29. The cable of claim 28, wherein said means for identifying further comprises transparent or translucent buffer tubes.

30. The cable of claim 29, wherein said means for identifying further comprises a ring or band marking around at least one of said transparent or translucent buffer tubes.